

JOSEPH PORTER.

MARCH 2, 1895.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MEIKLEJOHN, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 2141.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions have considered the bill (S. 2141) to increase to \$30 the pension of Joseph Porter, and submit the following report:

This bill passed the Senate February 12, 1895, and the Senate report is as follows:

The petitioner, Joseph Porter, late a private in Company K, Sixth New York Volunteer Heavy Artillery, enlisted September 23, 1864, and was discharged June 28, 1865, having served about nine months. He filed an application on September 1, 1890, alleging rheumatism and injury of left hand, claiming that he was totally unable to earn a support, and was crippled in his left hand, as a result of his service, said disabilities having been contracted in the line of duty and not due to vicious habits. He claims that he incurred said injury at Cedar Creek, Virginia, on the 19th day of October, 1864, claiming that while his regiment lay there the enemy suddenly and unexpectedly came on them and they all rushed for their guns. In the rush and excitement he received said injury in his left hand, it being very dark, the night being lighted only by the camp fires. He is not able to state just how it was done. The wound was not noticed until the excitement was over. He has always believed that his hand was pierced by a bayonet. This is the only knowledge that he has and statement that he is able to make. He further claims that his rheumatism was brought on by exposure and hardships, damp, cold weather, laying out all night in the rain, and other exposures incidental to army life.

Dr. Perdue, of Haverstraw, N. Y., whom he alleges treated him in 1865, at the time of the first appearance of his disability, in the month of October or thereabouts, after the battle of Cedar Creek, is dead, and hence he is unable to get the evidence of this physician. He was afterward treated by Dr. Nye, of Avoca, Iowa, in 1877, which physician is also dead. He was also treated by Dr. Carman, of the same place in 1880. From the year 1865, up to within the last six years, the petitioner claims he was unable for the performance of manual labor to the extent of about one-half, and within the past six years he has been totally disabled for the performance of any manual labor. Applicant has been totally blind for over four years, and he alleges that his eyesight began to fail from the time of his discharge.

One of his neighbors, John C. W. Cool, testifies that he is personally acquainted with the petitioner and has known him for a number of years past, and met him almost daily after his blindness occurred, and that he knows him to be suffering from what he alleges to be rheumatism, complaining of the same every week. Christopher Armstrong also testifies, by affidavit, that he has been personally acquainted with the petitioner for eighteen years, and is familiar with his physical condition; that he is totally blind, and is without any means whatever except the pension he is now receiving of \$12 per month. He has no property of any kind; that he requires the aid and attendance of some one continually, and that his wife is advanced in age and is unable to give him the attendance he requires.

H. B. Day testifies that he is a regular practicing physician and has been engaged in the practice for fifteen years, and has been claimant's family physician; that he is totally blind in both eyes and has been so for three or four years, and that the said blindness is the result of glaucoma and cataract of both eyes; that both eyes have

been operated upon and no relief has thus far been obtained, and that, in his opinion, there is absolutely no hope of his obtaining any relief in the future; that he is dependent on his neighbors for aid and attention, having no property of any kind, according to his knowledge and belief.

The report of the board of pension examiners is as follows:

"The petitioner suffers with rheumatism in the shoulders and legs, not being able to do any work, has so much pain after being on his feet, and can not lift arms above head; that the action of the heart is very weak, hard to hear at all, and can not feel its impulse; there is a pronounced obstructed murmur. He gets around with difficulty."

Your committee recommend the passage of the bill without amendment.

